GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:147
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2006
FILING OF IT RETURNS
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Union Government has prepared any scheme to provide help in the form of Tax Return Preparers(TRPs)for filing income tax returns ;

(b) If so, the details thereof ;

(c) The salient features of said scheme ;

(d) The agency selected to impart training in tax law and IT returns to TRPs ; and

(e) The criteria for selection of such TRPs in the country ?

Answer

MINISTER OF FINANCE IN THE MINISTRY OF (SHRI P.CHIDAMBARAM)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.147 BY SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY REGARDING `FILING OF IT RETURNS` TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 1ST DECEMBER, 2006

(a) Yes, Sir. The Union Government proposes to provide help to small and medium tax-payers in the form of Tax Return Preparers to assist them to file their income-tax returns.

(b) The Tax Return Preparers (TRPs) will assist individuals and Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) to prepare and furnish their return of income. However, the returns of income involving complexity such as those involving statutory audit will not be prepared by the TRPs. The scheme proposes to achieve the twin objectives of reducing the cost of compliance for small and medium taxpayers, thereby encouraging them to comply with tax laws and also to provide self-employment opportunities to unemployed graduates all over the country.

(c) The Tax Return Preparers Scheme involves selection of unemployed graduates, imparting training to them, conducting post-training examinations before certifying them as Tax Return Preparers. Training will involve classroom training, self-study and web-based training. During the financial year 2006-07, the scheme is being launched on a pilot basis to train 5,000 TRPs and to issue certification to successful candidates in February 2007.

(d) NIIT has been selected as the agency for selection of candidates and imparting of training to the TRPs.NIIT has extensive experience and nation-wide network in computer- based training.

(e) Applications received from the candidates will be shortlisted on the basis of marks obtained at graduation level. The minimum qualification for undergoing training as Tax Return Preparers is a graduation degree in Commerce, Law, Economics, Mathematics, Statistics, and Business Management/Administration. The shortlisted candidates will undergo a test and 5000 candidates will be selected and enrolled.The selected candidates will undergo training and end-of-training examination and only successful candidates will be certified as TRPs.